

Advanced Practice for the Complex Neonate:

Strategies for Success in the NICU, PICU and SICU

Anjanette Lee, MS, CCC/SLP, CNT

Faculty

Anjanette Lee, MS, CCC/SLP, CNT, NTMTC has over 25 years' experience in the NICU. She received her NIDCAP certification in 1999 and then became a "NICU owned" therapist. She has helped her NICU's quality improvement team incorporate family centered, neuroprotective, and neuromotivative care practices as standards of care. As an imbedded NICU therapist, she is passionate about sharing knowledge with and utilizing all members of the neonate's care team to support best neurodevelopmental outcomes. As a result, Anjanette provides ongoing education and mentorship for other Neonatal Therapists and NICU staff both within her hospital system and across the nation. Anjanette is certified in Neonatal Touch & Massage and was one of the first Certified Neonatal Therapists in the nation. She has co-authored chapters in Kenner & McGrath's 1st edition of Developmental Care of Newborns & Infants, and Case-Smith & O'Brien's 7th edition of Occupational Therapy for Children. She serves as co-leader of the National Association of Neonatal Therapists Professional Collaborative and has co-authored NANT's Neonatal Therapy Core Scope of Practice and Practice Competencies for the Neonatal Therapist. Anjanette also serves on the NANT national conference planning committee and is part of the teaching faculty for the NANT Ignite program.

Disclosure:

Financial: Ms. Lee receives an honorarium from Education Resources, Inc.

Non-Financial: No non-financial disclosures to report.

About this Course

This course will provide in-depth knowledge of the general prenatal and postnatal physiologic processes of common neonatal cardiac, respiratory, and neurologic diagnoses along with the developmental consequences and physiologic obstacles faced by pre-term and full-term infants born with these diagnoses. Recent research will be reviewed to bring the neonatal therapist up to date on long-term outcomes as well as current and possible future medical management and developmental interventions. Identification and synthesis of medical, caregiving, family/social, and diagnostic information will be a strong focus to ensure therapists can immediately apply advanced critical thinking skills and strategies to their caseloads. Topics approached from an integrated neuroprotective NICU team framework will include handling, positioning, oral care, feeding/swallowing and sensory processing. Infant directed intervention with implications for frequency and intensity will be discussed. A strong focus will be placed on developmental appropriateness, research efficacy, and both professional and family caregiver education. The use of videos and real-life experience will make this course engaging, interactive and functional to any clinician looking to make an impact for the infants on their caseload with complex medical issues.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the in-depth anatomy and physiology of disordered functions of the cardiac, respiratory, and neurologic systems of the complex neonate.
- Relate the possible positive and negative impacts of various medical interventions used with disordered functions of the cardiac, respiratory, and neurologic systems.
- Correlate how each comorbidity impacts neurodevelopment and the attainment of typical milestones in pre-term and full-term infants.
- Compare long-term outcomes for infants with complex medical histories as presented in recent evidenced-based research.
- Apply appropriate therapeutic strategies across all therapy domains to facilitate improved short-term and long-term outcomes in medically complex infants.
- Apply a multidisciplinary team approach for all infants, with the main focus being strong collaboration with parents and other medical professionals.

Schedule – Day 1 9:40 am to 6:00 pm EST (US)

9:40-10:00	Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
10:00-12:00	Typical Development of the Respiratory System & Application for the Neonatal Therapist - Anatomy and Physiology - The Pump & The Load - Rib cage, accessory muscles, diaphragm development - Fetal - Newborn - 3 Months Neonatal Respiratory Conditions Each condition to include discussion of disordered physiology and expected bedside presentation, diagnostic assessments and medical interventions, clinical reasoning, developmental impact, and long-term developmental outcomes - Full-term pathology - Meconium Aspiration Syndrome, Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension - Pre-term pathology - Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia/Chronic Lung Disease - Term/Preterm pathology - Pneumothorax, Pleural Effusion - Congenital anomalies - Diaphragmatic Hernia, Choanal Atresia, Laryngeal Cleft
12:00-12:15	Break
12:15-2:00	Neonatal Respiratory Conditions (cont'd) - Other Respiratory Considerations - Tracheostomy, Neuromuscular Disorders Habilitative Strategies - Part 1 Respiratory Devices, Neurodevelopmental Impact, and Developmental Outcomes - Mechanical Ventilation - Conventional, Jet, Oscillatory - Nasal CPAP - Conventional, Bubble, Variable Flow - Hi Flow Nasal Cannula Habilitative Strategies - Part 2

Schedule – Day 1(Cont.) 9:40 am to 6:00 pm EST (US)

2:00-2:30	Lunch
2:30-4:00	Respiratory Therapy: Roles and Interprofessional Collaboration - Breathing as a team sport - Sharing neuroprotective knowledge to support optimal respiratory function Typical Development of the Cardiac System and Application for the Neonatal Therapist - Anatomy and physiology - Fetal - Newborn - 3 Months Physiology of Heart Failure
4:00-4:15	Break
4:15-6:00	Neonatal Cardiac Conditions Each condition to include discussion of disordered physiology and expected bedside presentation, diagnostic assessments and medical interventions, clinical reasoning, developmental impact, and long-term developmental outcomes - Acyanotic Defects – Patent Ductus Arteriosus, Ventricular Septal Defect, Atrial Septal Defect, Atrioventricular Septal Defect, Aortic Stenosis, Coarctation of the Aorta - Cyanotic Defects – Transposition of the Great Arteries - Cyanotic Defects – Tetralogy of Fallot, Tricuspid Atresia, Pulmonary Atresia, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome Habilitative Considerations and Strategies

Schedule – Day 2 9:40 am to 6:00 pm EST (US)

- 9:40-10:00 Webinar Registration/Zoom Course Opens
- 10:00-12:00 Typical Development of the Neurologic System and Application for the Neonatal Therapist
- Anatomy and physiology
 - Fetal – Newborn – 3 Months
- Neonatal Neurologic Conditions**
- Each condition to include discussion of disordered physiology and expected bedside presentation, diagnostic assessments and medical interventions, clinical reasoning, developmental impact, and long-term developmental outcomes
- Congenital Conditions – Neural Tube Defects, Neuromuscular Disorders
 - Acquired Conditions – Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy, Intraventricular Hemorrhage, Periventricular Leukomalacia, Posthemorrhagic Hydrocephalus
- 12:00-12:15 Break
- 12:15-2:00 Physiology of Seizures
- Physiology of Abnormal Tone
- Prematurity: Impact on Postnatal Brain Development
- Neural plasticity
 - Basic science of neural enrichment and deprivation
 - Early relational trauma and neurobiological alterations
- Neuroprotective Care Guiding Concepts and Appropriate Intervention Strategies**
- Healing environment
 - Safeguarding sleep
 - Optimizing nutrition

Schedule – Day 2 (Cont.) 9:40 am to 6:00 pm EST (US)

- 2:00-2:30 Lunch
- 2:30-4:00 Neuroprotective Care Guiding Concepts and Appropriate Intervention Strategies (cont'd)
- Minimizing stress and pain
 - Protecting skin
 - Positioning and handling
 - Partnering with families
- Intervention Strategies**
- Handling and positioning
 - Sensory processing
 - Oral feeding
- 4:00-4:15 Break
- 4:15-6:00 Parent and Staff Education Considerations for Optimizing Family-Centered Care and Neuroprotection
- Educator attitudes, knowledge, and skills
 - Disparities in NICU quality of care
- Neonatal Therapy Practice Paradigm Shift**
- Advanced practice
 - Integrative model
 - Transdisciplinary model
- Putting It All Together**
- Case studies
 - Working a differential diagnosis
 - Seeing all the parts to the puzzle

Audience

Neonatal therapists, PTs, OTs, SLPs with experience working with infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"Excellent course and speakers! I was happy to have learned multiple techniques/interventions that I can immediately apply to the NICU population." – Heidi, PT

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WEBINAR DATES AND TIME

February 13 and 20, 2026

9:40am EST • 8:40am CST • 7:40am MST • 6:40am PST

Registration is for both sessions. Zoom log-in instructions and course materials will be emailed/added to your ERI account 5-7 days prior to the webinar.



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**WEBINAR: Advanced Practice for the Complex Neonate: Strategies for Success
in the NICU, PICU and SICU**

Anjanette Lee, MS, CCC/SLP, CNT

☐ **February 13 and 20, 2026**

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